Railway Muslim Employees Conference

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of the Muslim League Party in the Central Legislative Assembly. I understand that it is being considered by the Government. I would request the Government to conclude their considration at an early date and meet the just demands of the Muslim.

Seven-Year Plan

To do adequate justice to the Muslims (i) the Government should think out and then execute without delay a seven-year plan calculated to secure at least one third proportion for Muslims in each and every grade and class of the Railway service on an All-India basis. From the members of the Railway Board down to the humblest employee, the share of Muslims should be ensured, so that they should get one third share of the total wage bill; (ii) in the future also recruitment and promotion should be made to all grades and classes in such a manner as not to disturb this proportion; and (iii) the Muslims should get a similar share of all the contracts of every description on an All-India basis."

Gentlemen, you are aware that the Muslim League has been doing everything possible to secure justice and fairplay for you and let me tell you that we shall not rest content till we have secured a rightful place for the Muslims not only in the Railway Department but in every sphere of life in this country.

MUSLIM DEMANDS

The All-India Railway Muslim Employees' Conference, which opened in the Municipal Hall, Lucknow. on Saturday October 29 last concluded its session on Sunday. In the absence of Nawabzaba Liaquat Ali Khan, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, M. L. A. (Central), Acting President of the All-India Railway Muslim Employees' Association, presided the next day.

Among those present at the Conference were: Chaudhri Khaliquzzaman, Mr. Mobashir Husain Kidwai Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Khan, Mr. Zahiruddin Faruqui, Mr. Aziz Ahmed Khan, Mr. Shaukat Ali Khan, Mr. Fakhrul Islam, Mr. Ejaz Ahmed and Chaudhri Ahmad Shafi.

The Conference passed as many as 14 resolutions, mostly dealing with the various "grievances" of Muslim railway employees.

Resolutions

The first resolution was moved by Chaudhri Khaliqzzaman, viewing with concern the "conversion of a large number of direct recruitment posts on certain railways into promotion posts". The mover characterised that move as directed to "affect the Muslim community adversely." and urged the Government of India to issue necessary instructions to the railways concerned to follow strictly the quota fixed for recruitment of Muslims on each railway.

The resolution was supported by Mr. Muhammad Farooq and was unanimously passed.

By another resolution the Conference demanded that the Muslim quota in the lower grades and gazetted services and also in the upper subordinate services should be completed within seven years to the extent of 33 1/3 per cent. in each grade. At present, it was stated, the representation of Muslims in these services was only about six per cent.

By another resolution the Conference noted with concern that in spite of the repeated demand of the Muslim community and the promise given by the Government of India that the number of Muslims in the administrative sections of railways, specially dealing with recruitment, promotions and postings, would be increased, nothing had been done by the railway administration in that direction. The resolution urged Government to remove this "longstanding grievance" of the Muslim community.

Dearness Allowance

Owing to the rise in prices of foodstuffs and other necessities, a demand was made by another resolution for 25 per cent. dearness allowance to those employees drawing a salary of Rs. 65 or less, and 15 per cent. for those drawing a salary between Rs. 65 and 100 with a minimum increase of rupees five in salary.

By another resolution the Conference regretted that the railway administration in general gave financial aid only to non-Muslim educational institutions and demanded that out of the total education grant, one-third should be reserved for Muslim educational institutions. The Conference also demanded that leave for *jumma* prayers should be granted to Muslim employees in railway workshops and that there should be no deduction in pay on that account.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman, winding up the proceedings of the Conference appealed to the Muslim employees of railways to consolidate their position by joining the All-India Railway Muslim Employees' Association. He also urged the Government of India to recognise the Association.

The Conference concluded late in the afternoon.

Political Evolution of Muslim India

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to India from England where he had gone to practise before the Privy Council. On his return to India in 1934, Mr, Jinnah advised the Muslims to work the reforms in the Provinces for what they were worth, and took up the re-organization of the All-India Muslim League which had passed through many vicissitudes during the years preceding owing to internal wranglings. New life came into the almost dry bones of the League. The bitter experiences of the Muslims at the hands of the Congress and Hindu Mahasabha added zest to the League re-organisation work. The response from the country was marvellous despite the Congress machinations through "Mass Contact" and the like.

In seven out of eleven provinces, the Cogress came to power after considerable higgling, but refused to share the same with the League. Muslim "Show Boys" or "renegades" were taken into the Congress Cabinets, in preference to the real representatives of the Muslims. Then followed the oppression of the Muslims in the Congress-governed provinces. The malafides of the Congress-cum-Hindu Mahasabha stalwarts now came into still lurid light. Muslim India stood aghast but completely disillusioned. The Muslims must unite and organize themselves under the League, or they would be reduced to serfs and slaves,

Pakistan

In 1925, Sir Abdur Rahim struck a sturdy note of separatism in his famous speech at the Aligarh session of the Muslim League. The chorus of condemnation from Hindu India demonstrated that Sir Abdur Rahim struck the right note of Muslim India. In 1936 the Great Seer of Muslim India, Sir Muhammad Iqbal, put forward the plea of *Pakistan*, yet as a poet's dream at the Allahabad session of the Muslim League. In April, 1936, Mr. Jinnah asked the Muslims to stand on their own legs and make their demands felt; they could not expect their salvation from others.

The elections to the provincial legislatures carried the message of the League far and wide. The results were beyond expectation despite difficulties on all sides. In the historic session of the League at Lucknow in 1937, the League was practically reborn with its creed changed into "establishment in India of full independence in the form of a federation of free democratic states". The ideal of *Pakistan* loomed large and crystalized, and was adopted at the Lahore session of the League in 1940. In 1941, *Pakistan* was adopted as creed of the League at the Madras session. The rest is recent history.

Under the magnificent lead of the *Qaid-i-Azam*, the All-India Muslim League, born in Bengal in 1906, is now the sheet anchor of Muslim India. The anchor is deels down into the hearts of millions of Muslim India, and cannot be cast aside or cut asunder. That is a certainty.